

I am from what is considered Rural Billings Montana! I was attracted to XM Satellite Radio because of its excellent programming!

Billings has at least 15 major FM stations, a number of translators and 6 AM stations. There isn't much variety in programming available to the listener here despite all of these stations! One might be fortunate if they hear music which is older than five to ten years. If one does hear older music, it is number one music which is played over and over again! This covers all types of music played on local radio. Delivery of programming is sloppy! One may hear much dead air on AM stations and often they may leave the air for no apparent reason! Much local sports has come back to this market and one may hear the Mariners and Rockies Baseball games as well as Denver Broncos football, but one won't hear major sporting events as the World Series Playoffs, the World Series itself, Indianapolis 500 race, NFL Playoffs on local radio. One station did carry the Superbow though.

Satellite radio has changed all of this! I'm able to hear the Playoffs and World Series, and other sporting events including football on satellite radio. I thoroughly enjoy hearing all types of music dating back to the mid thirties on Satellite Radio. I often hear music which I haven't heard in some while! The digital quality of the music and programming is wonderful!

I won't be able to benefit directly from weather and traffic information on satellite radio but then I can check the weather and traffic of many larger cities if I choose to do so! I think this is a wonderful service for those who can directly benefit from this service!

I understand a number of rulings have been in favor of satellite TV! Let's continue this spirit of free competition for Satellite Radio! Local radio has much catching up to do! If they go down, they did it to themselves by not consulting listeners or potential listeners. I use local radio when I need to have a radio close to where I am working! I can't use my satellite radio in every part of the house unless I connect it to a low power FM transmitter and that isn't always convenient! If I have a choice, Satellite Radio wins hands down! Please continue to allow satellite radio services to reach their full potential! Please encourage free competition! This is best for all of us!

Jim Aldrich